

Designed For You



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architecture / engineering / site
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Hotels Turn Green

by Gary Guy Wilson, AIA, LEED AP

Things are going on the economic tide is beginning to turn... In the meantime, Green is making its way across the country and showing in many different ways. The Architect has a salad bowl of "Green" ideas he has come across his desk related to the Hotel Industry, and shares them as food for thought.

- To encourage use and proliferation of alternative fuel cars, hybrids and electric, consider FREE valet parking and even electrical power charging stations...
- Utilize in-house recycling programs...
- Green landscaped walls, free standing walls covered with plants...
- LED lighting for energy efficiency, meaning less power and longer use...
- Going Green takes interest, enthusiasm, and mandates from the highest levels of management...
- Consider every element of the project, you will find that for a relatively low additional construction cost, you will more than benefit over the life-cycle of the facility...
- Experience the Pride, the High of reaching green and sustainability goals...
- Location of the facility in a dense area, and close to public transportation benefits both customers and employees and the "Bottom Line"...
- Consider skylights in public spaces to let in natural light and reduce electrical lighting...
- Utilized sensor triggered lights in administrative spaces...
- Utilized water saving plumbing fixtures where ever possible...
- Materials like Concrete and Steel can have recycled content...
- Utilize low VOC (volatile organic compounds) for paint, adhesives, and carpet...
- Utilize high efficiency HVAC units to recapture heat and return to system...

How can LEED principles apply in your building Project? By taking a fresh look at techniques for building and for systems selections... and rebuilding of prosperity across our Town, State and Nation....

Do you have Questions or Comments regarding "Green" considerations in your life? "ASK THE ARCHITECT/LEED AP" at ggw@ggwarchitects.com.



SPOTLIGHT Tom Brady

GGWArchitects client, Tom Brady of the City of North Las Vegas, was born in North Carolina, but his family moved to Tennessee when he was just 6 weeks old. His father's Air Force career prompted several more moves. Tom lived in Austin, Texas and Tucson, Arizona before the family settled in Las Vegas in 1977. A one-year move to Killeen, Texas preceded his return to Southern Nevada to finish high school at Calvary Chapel Christian School.

Tom graduated from M.I.T. with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and minor in Music in 1991. From there, he joined Willdan & Associates, developing and reviewing drainage studies and improvement plans plus performing SID engineering for municipalities and then G.C. Wallace, where he gained roadway design experience. Tom's next stop was the City of North Las Vegas in 1995.

When hired as their only Engineering Associate, Tom oversaw the technical staff for in-house design. He was promoted to Project Manager over design and construction for utility and roadway projects before becoming Principal Engineer of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Tom developed and coordinated multi-agency projects. Manager of Engineering Planning was next, where Tom, as a LEED AP, managed the facility design group which handled projects for all public buildings - remodels and new construction. This included space planning and overall capital project planning. "I used to handle projects from cradle to grave. That fascinated me. It helped me to get a picture of how projects should be implemented. I've taken that with me and applied that knowledge in terms of developing projects." In June, 2010, a staff re-organization led Tom to his current position, Manager of Engineering Design over 5 engineers and a support, technical, and administrative staff. He reviews plans and reports, providing direction to his Project Managers. Tom also manages projects assigned specifically to him.

Keeping Tom busy, in addition to his career, is 9-year-old son, Christopher, with whom he enjoys playing tennis on the courts and via video games. Also keeping Tom busy is his new post as President-Elect for the Nevada Chapter of the American Public Works Association. Tom will take Office of President in January, 2012.

There are no new projects in the forefront at the City of North Las Vegas, which has reduced its Capital Improvement Program and staff, as tax revenues have gone down; however, "there are a lot left that were in the development stages, when this all hit. We are as busy as we'd ever been." A new 9-story City Hall, scheduled to open in October, is receiving everyone's attention.

Remodeling projects, like those previously contracted with GGWArchitects, have been dropped, but Tom appreciates our firm as a "great resource for space planning and remodeling and re-utilization of existing space." Though Tom knows the housing industry and economy won't be what they were before, "it will come back up in the next few years. We look forward to when development can start up again." So do we, Tom. We definitely hope to join forces once again.

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